

HONLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR 1918.

I.—BIRTHS.

During the year 1918 52 births were registered, 26 being boys and 26 girls, making a birth-rate of 16.8 per thousand persons belonging to the district per annum. This is a very low rate. The birth-rate for England and Wales was 17.7 per thousand. The births were again fewer than the deaths. There was one illegitimate birth.

II.—DEATHS.

The deaths of civilians belonging to the district numbered 66, 32 males, 34 females, making a death-rate of 15.4 per thousand of the estimated civilian population per annum, which is much higher than the rate for the previous year, which was 11.5, but lower than the exceedingly high rate for the whole country, which was 17.6 per thousand.

As six infants died before reaching the age of twelve months, the infantile mortality rate was 111 per thousand births, which is higher than the average; the infantile mortality rate for the whole country being 97 per thousand births.

III.—DISEASE.

(a) The 66 deaths were certified as having been caused by the following diseases:—

Measles	1
Diphtheria	1
Influenza	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5
Other Tuberculous Disease	1
Cancer	4
Organic Heart Disease	8
Bronchitis	6
Bronchitis	6
Pneumonia	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	1
Nephritis	1
Congenital Debility, etc.	5
Violence	1
Suicide	3
Other Diseases	21
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Total	66
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Although influenza was very prevalent in Honley, the mortality was very much less than that suffered by most districts in the country. Only one death occurred during the summer invasion, and only two in the autumn.

The deaths due to tuberculosis were above the average.

The particular causes of death of the six infants were as follows:—

Congenital Malformation	1
Narasmus and Convulsions	1
Premature Birth	4
	—
	6
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So that want of food or improper feeding may have contributed to one death. Unusual hard work or mental anxiety arising from the war may have had a bad effect on the mothers, causing premature births.

The state of war may also have caused the excessive number of suicides.

(b) Thirty-two cases of infectious disease were notified to me. They included :—

- 6 Cases of Measles.
- 6 Cases of Scarlet Fever.
- 9 Cases of Diphtheria.
- 1 Case of Malarial Fever.
- 10 Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

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32
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Two of the scarlet fever cases and seven of the diphtheria cases were sent to the isolation hospital.

There was no serious amount of infectious disease, apart from influenza, which is not notifiable, but sporadic cases of measles, scarlet fever, and diphtheria were frequently introduced.

Malaria, which depends on the presence of mosquitoes, is not likely to spread in this district.

The notifications of tuberculosis, as well as the deaths, were above the average in number.

IV.—SANITARY CONDITION.

There has been little change in the various sanitary departments, but one additional water-closet and one tub closet have been constructed.

Complaints have been made that refuse has not been removed as frequently as necessary. The scarcity of teams and workmen has been blamed, and extra efforts are now being made to remedy the fault.

The Sanitary Inspector has continued his regular inspections of cowsheds, workshops, slaughter-houses, etc., and has generally found them well kept.

He has sent notices requiring the abatement of eleven definite nuisances, and they have all been remedied.

No new houses have been built within the district for some time, and people with large families have difficulty in finding suitable dwellings. In the absence of private enterprise it is necessary that the Council should undertake the work of providing more houses. I understand they are now considering plans, which I hope will provide three bedrooms and all modern conveniences for each house, and that the houses will be detached or semi-detached, and not in a row.

A. J. M. J.

